

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-07 EUR-25 DRC-01

NIC-01 /122 W

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R 220830Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 443

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA

SUBJECT: PRC NOTES SIGNING OF CHINA-JAPAN AIR PACT

SUMMARY. NCNA HAS CARRIED FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA'S STATEMENT ON THE AIR PACT AND FAVORABLE JAPANESE COMMENTS WHICH HIGHLIGHT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING SINO-JAPANESE EXCHANGES AND THE CONCLUSION OF OTHER AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA (APRIL 20) CARRIED JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA'S APRIL 20 PRESS STATEMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE PRC-JAPAN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. NCNA NOTED THAT OHIRA TERMED THE SIGNING "A MATTER OF REJOICING" WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND "FURTHER PROMOTE THE INTERFLOW OF GOODS AND PERSONNEL BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA."

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2. NCNA CITED OHIRA'S REMARKS THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE

JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR ROUTE SHOULD NOT CONTRADICT THE NEW RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE PRC BUT SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH "NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT." ACCORDING TO THE NCNA REPORT, OHIRA NOTED THAT WITH THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND JAPAN IN 1972, THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON AVIATION BETWEEN TAIWAN AND JAPAN ARE NULL AND VOID. NCNA ALSO QUOTED OHIRA'S STATEMENT THAT "JAPAN DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE EMBLEM ON THE TAIWAN AIRCRAFT AS THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL FLAG NOR DOES IT RECOGNIZE 'CHINA AIRLINES (TAIWAN)' AS AN AIR FIRM REPRESENTING A STATE."

3. PEKING MEDIA HAS NOT DIRECTLY COMMENTED ON THE SIGNING OF THE AIR PACT--AND MAY REFRAIN FROM DOING SO UNTIL AFTER DIET RATIFICATION. HOWEVER, NCNA HAS CARRIED SEVERAL REPORTS OF FAVORABLE JAPANESE COMMENTARY TERMING THE AGREEMENT A "COMMON VICTORY FOR THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE PEOPLE," BUT WARNING THAT REACTIONARIES SUPPORTING THE "ONE CHINA, ONE TAIWAN" POLICY ARE STILL WAGING AN EFFORT TO SABOTAGE THE AGREEMENT AND SUGGESTING THAT OTHER "BUSINESS AGREEMENTS" AND A PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY MAY NOW BE CONCLUDED AT AN EARLY DATE. SPECIFICALLY, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE JAPAN-CHINA CULTURAL EXCHANGE WAS QUOTED AS HAILING THE AGREEMENT AS A "NEW CHAPTER" WHICH PROVIDES FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES. AND THE PRESIDENT OF JAL WAS QUOTED A PLEDGING TO "QUICKEN THE PACE OF PREPARATIONS SO THAT THE AIR ROUTE MAY BE OPENED AT AN EARLY DATE."

4. MEANWHILE THERE ARE OTHER GOOD OMENS FOR EXPANDING SINO-JAPANESE EXCHANGES. IN RECENT WEEKS, PRC MEDIA HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO VISITING JAPANESE GROUPS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES. IN PARTICULAR, NCNA HAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE TO JAPANESE SHIP TOURS--A UNIQUE VEHICLE OF SINO-JAPANESE EXCHANGES. AT PRESENT THERE ARE TWO SUCH TOUR GROUPS VISITING CHINA. ONE IS THE DELEGATION OF THE "OSAKA/JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SHIP" AND THE OTHER, "THE KOBE-TIENTSIN FRIENDSHIP SHIP." IN CONTRAST THE RECENT VISITS TO CANTON OF TOUR GROUPS FROM EUROPEAN SHIPS WERE NOT PUBLICIZED INSIDE CHINA.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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